

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, UR, US

SUBJ: GROMYKO, PONOMAREV SPEAK ON U.S.-USSR

RELATIONS

1. IN PRE-ELECTION SPEECH IN MINSK ON JUNE 10,
FONMIN GROMYKO STATED THAT THE PARTY IS "SERIOUSLY
PREPARING" FOR THE UPCOMING SUMMIT, "WHICH IN
IMPORTANCE SHOULD BE IN NO WAY INFERIOR" TO
PRECEDING SUMMITS, AND REAFFIRMED PARTY'S INTENT
TO GIVE "INCREASINGLY STABLE CHARACTER" TO U.S.-USSR
PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE. IN TWO-PARAPGRAPH SECTION
IN PRAVDA JUNE 11, GROMYKO TWICE MENTIONS PRESIDENT
BY NAME.

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2. TASS ENGLISH VERSION OF U.S. SECTION OF GROMYKO SPEECH CONTAINS SEVERAL NEGATIVE PASSAGES OMITTED FROM PARAPHRASED VERSION WHICH APPEARED IN PRAVDA AND OTHER DAILIES. IN TASS ENGLISH VERSION GROMYKO POINTS OUT THAT "IT WOULD PROBABLY BE EARLY TO SAY THAT THE TURN TOWARD INTENSIFICATION OF (U.S.-USSR) RELATIONS IS AN ULTIMATE ONE." HE CONTINUES THAT "ZIG-ZAGS" IN THE EVOLUTION OF RELATIONS CANNOT BE EXCLUDED, FOR DETENTE OPPONENTS "DO NOT CEASE THEIR ACTIVITIES IN THE USA RUNNING COUNTER TO RECENTLY CLEAR TREND" TOWARD DETENTE. GROMYKO ALSO NOTES, HOWEVER, THAT "IT WILL NOT BE EASY FOR (DETENTE OPPONENTS) TO REVERSE TO COURSE OF EVENTS."

3. PARTY SECRETARY PONOMAREV, IN SIMILAR SPEECH IN KALININ ON SAME DAY, DOES NOT MENTION SUMMIT, BUT CHARACTERIZES RECENT U.S.-USSR AGREEMENTS AS -AN EXTRADORDINARILY IMPORTANT RESULT" OF DETENTE. THOUGH LESS EFFUSIVE THAN HIS STATEMENTS IN U.S., U.S. SECTION OF PONOMAREV'S SPEECH IS CONSISTENT WITH THEM. AND IT IS FEATURED PROMINENTLY, COMING VERY EARLY IN HIS DISCUSSION OF SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY

4. COMMENT: THE PRESS TREATMENT OF THE GROMYKO SPEECH IS CURIOUS, TO SAY THE LEAST. PRAVDA EXCISED BOTH HIS NEGATIVE WORDS ON THE U.S. AND HIS STATEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST SECTION THAT ISRAEL AND ITS "BACKERS" (READ U.S.) FAVOR HALF-MEASURES (SEPTEL); ENGLISH LANGUAGE TASS RAN BOTH PASSAGES. IT APPEARS THAT GROMYKO'S LANGUAGE ON THE U.S. WAS QUITE GUARDED - PARTICULARLY WITH THE SUMMIT LESS THAN THREE WEEKS OFF - BUT WE WILL HAVE TO WAIT FOR THE FULL VERSION OF THE SPEECH TO BE SURE.

STOESSEL

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